

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 – 6:30 pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building.

**\*Due to technical difficulties, the video begins at 0:21:57 and audio at 0:31:46.**

**A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb***

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Mike Owens  
Amanda Pillion  
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor  
Derek Webb, Mayor

Member(s) of Council Absent:

James Anderson

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. PRAYER – *Pastor Dwayne Knight***

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO )**

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, amended the agenda to include the following and accepted as amended:**

- **Discussion of assignment, appointment of an interim Town manager pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1);**
- **Discussion of assignment, appointment of a Town manager pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1);**
- **Discussion of salaries of Council appointees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)**
- **Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3);**
- **Discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3); and**
- **Discussion for appointments to boards and commissions pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1).**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO )**

- Jack McCready
- Michael Henningsen (VIDEO 0:21:57)
- Wayne Craig
- Greg Case, Charles Boling, Joe Fields, Barry and Juanita Sample
- Jennifer Johnson (AUDIO 0:31:46)
- Steve Trotman
- Richard Morgan
- Robert Saunders on behalf of Kiwanis Club
- Tim Webb on behalf of Rotary Club
- Walter Jenny
- Emmitt Yeary
- Col. John Bradley
- Dwayne Knight

**G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 56:21 – 56:52)**

- January 3, 2022 meeting
- January 31, 2022 meeting

**On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, approved January 3, 2022, and January 31, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**H. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 56:53 – 59:07)**

1. Proclamation recognizing Black History Month, February 2022

Mrs. Pillion read the Proclamation into the record.

**I. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**J. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution adopting the “Commitment to Excellence” policy for boards, commission and committees. **(VIDEO 59:12 – 1:02:06)**

Mr. Morani stated this would be an opportunity to implement the policy. Mayor Webb noted the policy was developed to streamline all the boards, commissions, and committees, setting forth clear expectations of what the Council hopes to achieve to be more successful.

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Resolution supporting the “Commitment to Excellence” policy as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

**L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

**O. OLD BUSINESS**

**P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN  
MANAGER**

1. Discussion regarding ARPA Funds – ***Steve Trotman, Director of Finance***  
**(VIDEO 1:02:16 – 1:07:20)**

Mr. Trotman updated Council on the U. S. Treasury’s final guidance for lost revenue as of January 6, 2022. He explained the changes to calculation, stating the Town could now use the standard allowance for government services. Mr. Trotman said the tranche can be used for immediate needs within the project as long as the money is spent by 2026. He advised that from the \$4.0 million received on June 30, 2021, \$1.7 million expended, and receipt of the second tranche by the end of June or first of July, 2022.

**(VIDEO 1:07:21 – 1:12:38) Discussion of Items 2 and 3**

2. Discussion regarding the Virginia Creeper Trail trestle repair – ***James Morani, Town Manager***

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Damascus and the Town of Abingdon regarding Virginia Creeper Trail trestles – ***James Morani, Town Manager***

Mr. Morani advised that he and staff have been working on these two items, particularly the area maintained by Abingdon and jointly owned with Damascus.

Mr. Morani stated that in approaching the trestle repairs identified as a priority with the ARPA funds, Mr. Bell recommended that we delineate our responsibilities on these capital improvements. After discussions, it was determined to draft an agreement with the Town of Damascus to allow the Town of Abingdon to improve with coordination. Mr. Morani stated an RFP was issued for engineering services for some work strictly related to the trestle repairs identified, with No. 4 being the most pressing. Mr. Morani advised that Mr. Bell has spoken with the Town of Damascus' legal counsel, and they will be adopting the MOU at their next meeting. Mr. Morani noted there would be a more expansive MOU dealing with the maintenance of the trail at a later date.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, authorized the Town Manager to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Damascus and the Town of Abingdon regarding the Virginia Creeper Trail trestles repairs in the area when the Town of Abingdon maintains.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

4. Wastewater Operations Report – ***Woodard & Curran (VIDEO 1:12:40 – 1:31:53)***

Mike Greenburg, Chris Pritt, and Ryan Sullivan with Woodward & Curran provided Council with an update regarding the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

5. Town Manager Report – ***James Morani, Town Manager***

Mr. Morani invited Chief Holbrook to update on extra speed enforcement on Valley Street. **(VIDEO 1:32:10 – 1:34:04)**

Mr. Morani addressed the Council regarding his last regular meeting. **(VIDEO 1:34:06 – 1:37:39)**

## **Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Vice Mayor Donna Quetsch thanked Mr. Morani for his hard work and wished him well in every future endeavor and the best for him and his family. **(VIDEO 1:37:58 – 1:42:16)**

Mrs. Pillion conveyed that it was consistently her pleasure to serve with the other members and the mutual respect during disagreements, ability to discuss issues and work through problems together as a team. Mrs. Pillion stated that Mr. Morani fostered that environment and helped us be leaders. Mrs. Pillion also addressed the request to reinstate the banner permit. **(VIDEO 1:42:20 – 1:45:15)**

Mr. Owens stated on a personal note that when he began his position two years ago, he was naïve as to how the Town worked and thanked Mr. Morani for being patient. Mr. Morani and his staff taught him so much and enriched his experience on the Town Council. **(VIDEO 1:42:17 – 1:45:56)**

Mayor Webb announced that the sports complex project was not budgeted four years ago when he ran for office and thanked Mr. Morani for leading us in the huge capital project, giving guidance and advice. Mayor Webb thanked Mr. Morani for making decisions in the Town's best interest. **(VIDEO 1:45:56 – 1:49:03)**

Mr. Morani thanked the tremendous team of Michael Surrett, Tyler Vencill, and John Dew for moving along the sports complex. **(VIDEO 1:49:03 – 1:51:14)**

## **R. CLOSED SESSION (VIDEO 1:51:51 – 2:44:51)**

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, to convene in closed session for discussion of the following matters:**

- **Assignment, appointment of an interim Town manager pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1);**
- **Assignment, appointment of a Town manager pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1);**
- **Salaries of Council appointees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)**
- **Consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3);**
- **Consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3); and**
- **Appointments to boards and commissions pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1).**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reconvened in open session.  
(VIDEO 2:45:24 – 2:46:21)**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mr. Owens moved that the Town Council certify that, in closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in the motion.**

**The certification was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>I so certify</b>

**(VIDEO 2:46:21 – 2:47:24)**

**Mayor Webb stated that he is an employee of K-VA-T and earns more than \$5,000 a year. Therefore, he abstained from any discussion or motion.**

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, authorized the Town Manager to enter into a lease agreement with K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. for buildings A and C at the sports complex for concessions.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Abstain</b>

**S. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 2:47:25 – 2:51:03)**

1. Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority

- Reappointment of Dorothea Frazier, who is eligible to serve an additional term

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, reappointed Dorothea Frazier to serve an additional term on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

2. Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee

- Appointment to fill vacancy for funeral home representative

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, appointed Kimberly Farris-Luke as the funeral home representative for the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

3. Abingdon Arts Commission

- Appointment to fill vacancy for one *ex officio* Councilmember

- Appointment by Town Manager to fill vacancy for *ex officio* Town employee designee to serve as staff support and/or as secretary
- Appointment to fill three vacancies to serve from date of appointment until June 30, 2023
- Appointment to fill two vacancies to serve from date of appointment until June 30, 2024

**Mayor Webb conveyed that the appointment by Town Manager to fill vacancy for *ex officio* Town employee designee to serve as staff support and/or as secretary was tabled.**

**On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Greg Lilly and Summer Apostol to serve from the date of appointment until June 30, 2024; and Matthew Frederick, Dirk Moore, and Ben Jennings to serve from the date of appointment until June 30, 2023, on the Abingdon Arts Commission.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, appointed Amanda Pillion as the Councilmember to serve on the Abingdon Arts Commission.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.




---

Mayor Derek Webb




---

Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk